

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 CU-06 INR-07  
NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-15 HEW-06 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-14  
EA-12 /114 W

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R 171600Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4210  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS RABAT 0317

PASS HEW/OE - MESSRS COTNER, HAUCH, LEESTMA  
FOR STATE: IO/UNESCO, CU/WE, CU/NEA  
FOR PARIS: PERMDEL UNESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OCON, UNESCO, MO  
SUBJECT: SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS TO PREPARE THE  
DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF STUDIES, DIPLOMAS  
AND DEGREES IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE ARAB STATES, RABAT,  
JANUARY 9-13, 1978

REF: RABAT 0234

FROM RAYMOND WANNER, HEAD OF U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION

1. REVISED DRAFT CONVENTION ADOPTED BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE AFTER LONG DEBATE.
  2. THE PRECISE MEANING OF THE TERM ARAB STATES WAS VIGOROUSLY DISCUSSED. REPRESENTATIVE OF UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL HELD THAT ARAB STATES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A UNESCO CONFERENCE MEANT THOSE INCLUDED IN THE UNESCO ARAB REGION AS DEFINED BY THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE.
  3. IRAQ ARGUED THAT ARAB STATES SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD TO MEAN THE MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES AND ARTICLE 15
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WAS AMENDED TO REFLECT THIS. IN FACT, THE MEMBER STATES OF THE UNESCO ARAB REGION AND THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES ARE THE SAME, BUT IRAQ CLAIMED THAT UNESCO DETERMINATION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES THE TERM ARAB STATES WAS UNWARRANTED. IRAQ WAS EVENTUALLY SUPPORTED BY OTHER DELEGATES. ONLY MOROCCO SPOKE IN FAVOR OF UNESCO SECRETARIAT POSITION.

4. REPRESENTATIVE OF UNESCO D.G. EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN AT THE NEW WORDING OF ARTICLE 15 AND EXPRESSLY RESERVED THE POSITION OF THE D.G. ON THIS POINT.
  5. DELEGATES REFERRED REPEATEDLY TO WHAT THEY SAID WAS THE POOR QUALITY OF THE ARABIC VERSION OF THE DRAFT CONVENTION. APPARENTLY THE TRANSLATION WAS OBJECTIVELY POOR, BUT ANOTHER REALITY APPEARED TO BE ARAB DISSATISFACTION THAT A CONVENTION AFFECTING THEM WAS DRAFTED FIRST IN FRENCH, THEN TRANSLATED INTO ARABIC. (IN FACT, ARABIC WHILE AN "OFFICIAL" UNESCO LANGUAGE IS NOT ONE OF THE TWO SECRETARIAT WORKING LANGUAGES).
  6. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DEBATE OVER THE RELATIONSHIP OF UNESCO TO ALESCO AND THE ASSOCIATION OF ARAB STATES IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION THROUGH THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE TO BE SET UP BY THE CONVENTION.
  7. UNESCO TIME SCHEDULE CALLED FOR SIGNING OF CONVENTION IN JUNE IN ALEXANDRIA. IT IS POSSIBLE, ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT PERSONNEL, THAT BOTH DATE AND TIME MAY BE CHANGED, IN PART AT LEAST, BECAUSE OF DIFFICULT NATURE OF THIS
- COX/:3.ANDERSON

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## Message Attributes

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